

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously presented) A method for modulating activation of an NFkB signaling pathway in a cell comprising

contacting a cell having TRADE activity with a TRADE polypeptide in an amount sufficient to modulate the activation of an NFkB signaling pathway associated with TRADE activity in said cell, wherein said TRADE polypeptide comprises the extracellular domain of a TRADE α polypeptide, said extracellular domain having at least 95% corresponding to a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide at least 98 % homologous to a polynucleotide encoding amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: an epithelial cell, a ductal epithelial cell, and a bronchial epithelial cell.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said TRADE polypeptide is a soluble form of a TRADE α polypeptide.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the soluble form of the TRADE α polypeptide is a TRADE α -Fc fusion protein.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said TRADE polypeptide consists essentially of said TRADE α polypeptide extracellular domain.

Claims 9-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein includes the hinge –C_H2-C_H3 regions of a human immunoglobulin.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the Fc portion of said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of γ 1, γ 2, γ 3, ϵ and α .

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADE α and Fc sequences.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said TRADE polypeptide consists of a polypeptide sequence at least 95% homologous to encoded by a polynucleotide sequence at least 98 % homologous to a polynucleotide encoding amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein said TRADE polypeptide consists essentially of a polypeptide sequence at least 95% 98% homologous to a polynucleotide encoding amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said TRADE polypeptide comprises at least one of the domains corresponding to amino acids 29-63 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 72-114 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 114-139 of SEQ ID NO:2, or amino acids 137-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a liver cell.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said TRADE polypeptide modulates the activity of a native TRADE α polypeptide in said cell comprising a sequence at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO:2.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said TRADE polypeptide modulates the activity of a native TRADE α polypeptide in said cell comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

51. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said TRADE polypeptide modulates the activity of a native TRADE α polypeptide in said cell consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein contacting said cell with said polypeptide results in reduction of NFkB activity.

53. (Currently amended) A method for modulating NFkB activity in a cell comprising contacting a cell having TRADE activity with a TRADE polypeptide comprising the extracellular domain of a TRADE α polypeptide, wherein said extracellular domain is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides 1-504 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said polypeptide agent inhibits the activity of a native TRADE α polypeptide in said cell having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, such that NFkB activity in said cell is modulated.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a liver cell

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said TRADE polypeptide is a soluble form of a TRADE α polypeptide.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the soluble form of the TRADE α polypeptide sequence is a TRADE α -Fc fusion protein.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein includes the hinge -C_H2-C_H3 regions of a human immunoglobulin.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the Fc portion of said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of $\gamma 1$, $\gamma 2$, $\gamma 3$, ϵ and α .

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADE α polypeptide sequences and Fc sequences.

63. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein said TRADE polypeptide modulates the activity of a native TRADE α polypeptide in said cell comprising a sequence at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO:2.

64. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein said TRADE polypeptide modulates the activity of a native TRADE α polypeptide in said cell comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein contacting said cell with said TRADE polypeptide results in reduction of NFkB activity.

66. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said extracellular domain has at least 99% sequence identity to amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

67. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said extracellular domain comprises amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

68. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.